<u>AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS</u>

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1. - 20. (CANCEL)

21.   (new) A method for generating notifications, comprising:

receiving event data at customer premise equipment, said event data provides information about an event occurring within a program not currently being viewed;

comparing said event data to an alert parameter at said customer premise equipment; and

providing an alert for a user of said customer premise equipment if said received event data satisfies said alert parameter.

22.   (new) A method according to claim 21, further comprising:

providing a mechanism for said user to tune in said program not currently being viewed in response to said alert.

23.   (new) A method according to claim 21, wherein:

said providing a mechanism includes displaying a user interface which provides an input item for a user to select and tuning in said program not currently being viewed in response to said user selecting said input item.

24.   (new) A method according to claim 21, further comprising:

providing a mechanism for said user to record said program not currently being viewed in response to said alert.

25.   (new) A method according to claim 21, wherein:

said event data includes event messages; and

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said event messages includes a channel number, event categorization and event description.

26.   (new) A method according to claim 21, further comprising:

displaying a first program, said program not currently being viewed is a second program; and

providing a mechanism for said user to tune in said second program in response to said alert.

27.   (new) A method according to claim 26, wherein:

said first program and said second program are broadcast television programs; and

said providing a mechanism includes displaying an interface on a television displaying said first program.

28.   (new) A method according to claim 21, further comprising:

providing an interface for said user to specify said alert parameter;

receiving said alert parameter via said interface; and

storing said alert parameter.

29.   (new) A method according to claim 21, wherein:

said customer premise equipment includes a set-top box running JavaScipt code; and

said JavaScipt code performs said receiving event data, comparing said event data and providing said alert.

30.   (new) A method according to claim 21, wherein:

said receiving event data includes receiving said event data from a server at a head-end premises.

31.   (new) A method for generating notifications, comprising:

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receiving event data at customer premise equipment, said event data provides information about a first event occurring within a first visual program, said event data is received from a server at a head-end premises; and

providing an alert for a user of said customer premise equipment if said received event data matches an alert parameter stored at said customer premise equipment.

32.   (new) A method according to claim 31, wherein:

said event data is received while a second visual program is displayed in association with said customer premise equipment.

33.   (new) A method according to claim 32, further comprising:

comparing said event data to a set of alert parameters at said customer premise equipment.

34.   (new) A method according to claim 31, wherein:

said alert indicates an occurrence of said first event; and

said alert parameter identifies said first event.

35.   (new) A system for generating alerts to events in programs, comprising:

customer premise equipment running a user preference application and an alert generation application, said customer premise equipment is in communication with head-end equipment in order to receive event data from said head-end equipment, said event data provides information about a first event occurring within a television program not currently being viewed in association with said customer premise equipment, said user preference application manages data that indicates which events to generate alerts for, said alert generation application compares said received event data with said data that indicates which events to generate alerts for, said alert generation application generates an alert if there is a match between said received event data and said data that indicates which events to generate alerts for.

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36.   (new) A system according to claim 35, wherein:

said customer premise equipment includes a set-top box.

37.   (new) A system of claim 35, further comprising,

a user interface, said user interface reports said alert and provides an input item for said user to tune to said television program in response to said alert.

38.   (new) A system of claim 35, further comprising,

a user interface, said user interface reports said alert and provides an input item that allows said user to record the first program.

39.   (new) A system of claim 35, further comprising,

a user interface, said user interface receives an input from said user, said input corresponds to said data that indicates which events to generate alerts for